AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for performing a frequent itemset operation, the method

comprising the steps of:

within a database server <u>that supports a particular database language,</u>~~receiving~~ parsing <u>a</u>

<u>database statement</u> ~~that specifies frequency criteria and additional criteria,~~ <u>to</u>

<u>detect within the database statement, a construct that extends the particular</u>

<u>language,</u>

wherein <u>the construct identifies a function that counts and returns frequent itemsets given</u>

<u>a cursor as input;</u> ~~said frequency criteria specifies at least one criterion that relates~~

~~to how frequently combinations of items appear together, and wherein said~~

~~additional criteria do not specify any criterion that relates to how frequently~~

~~combinations of items appear together;~~

performing said frequent itemset operation as part of execution of the database statement

to produce results~~, wherein the results include frequent itemsets that satisfy both~~

~~said frequency criteria and said additional criteria, and wherein the results do not~~

~~include frequent itemsets that satisfy said frequency criteria but do not satisfy said~~

~~additional criteria~~; and

storing the results in a computer-readable storage medium.

2.   (Previously presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein the database statement is

expressed in a particular database language, and wherein the particular database language

is SQL.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein the frequency criteria and the~~

~~additional criteria are identified by a construct, and~~ wherein the construct is a table

function<u>;</u>

<u>and wherein the database statement specifies frequency criteria and additional criteria,</u>

<u>wherein said frequency criteria specifies at least one criterion that relates to how</u>

<u>frequently combinations of items appear together, and wherein said additional</u>

criteria do not specify any criterion that relates to how frequently combinations of
items appear together;

and wherein the results include frequent itemsets that satisfy both said frequency criteria
and said additional criteria, and wherein the results do not include frequent
itemsets that satisfy said frequency criteria but do not satisfy said additional
criteria.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 1 wherein:

the database statement includes a first indication of a first input format;

the frequent itemset operation operates on input that conforms to said first input format;
        and

the method further comprises the steps of:

        parsing a second database statement to detect within the second database

                statement [[the]] a construct that extends a database language, wherein the

                second database statement includes a second indication of a second input

                format that is different from said first input format; and

        in response to detection of said construct in said second database statement, the

                database server performing a second frequent itemset operation as part of

                execution of the second database statement, wherein the second frequent

                itemset operation operates on input that conforms to said second format.

5.   (Original)   The method of Claim 4 wherein the first indication is identification of a first
        table function and the second indication is identification of a second table function.

6.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1 wherein the frequent itemset operation uses, as input,
        a row source that is generated during execution of other operations specified in said
        database statement.

7.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1 wherein the frequent itemset operation produces, as
        output, a row source that is used as input for other operations specified in said database
        statement.

8.   (Cancelled).

                                              3

9.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim [[1]] 3 wherein:

the additional criteria specify a minimum length; and

the step of performing the frequent itemset operation includes performing a frequent

itemset operation whose results exclude all item sets that include fewer items than

the minimum length specified by the additional criteria.

10.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim [[1]] 3 wherein:

the additional criteria specify a maximum length; and

the step of performing the frequent itemset operation includes performing a frequent

itemset operation whose results exclude all item sets that include more items than

the maximum length specified by the additional criteria.

11.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim [[1]] 3 wherein:

the additional criteria specify a set of one or more included items; and

the step of performing the frequent itemset operation includes performing a frequent

itemset operation whose results exclude all itemsets that do not include all items

in said set of one or more included items.

12.   (Original)   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of performing the frequent itemset

operation includes performing a frequent itemset operation whose results identify

frequent itemsets, and

for each of the frequent itemsets, a count of how many item groups included the frequent

itemset.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of performing the

frequent itemset operation includes performing a frequent itemset operation whose results

identify

frequent itemsets, and

for each of the frequent itemsets, a count of how many items are in the frequent itemset.

14.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 1.

4

15.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 2.

16.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 3.

17.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 4.

18.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 5.

19.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 6.

20.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 7.

21.   (Cancelled).

22.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
       or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 9.

23.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
       sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
       one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 10.

24.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 11.

25.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 12.

26.   (Previously presented)   A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the
        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 13.